catharsis

By: Ahniki

HQ?

WE'LL BE THERE SOON.
...AND YOU SAY I'LL BE TREATED THERE TOO?
VROOOOOM
TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY,

YES.
TRUST ME. I'VE BEEN IN YOUR SHOES BEFORE. IT WILL BE VERY EFFECTIVE, AND YOU WILL FEEL MUCH BETTER THAN NOW EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OK.
SO HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON KEEPING ME THERE THEN?
...
SINCE DAY ONE YOU'VE BEEN GIVING ME ALL THIS INFO AND HAD SOME SORT OF A LEASH ON ME.
I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE NOT JUST GONNA LET ME GO AFTER I GET BETTER WILL YOU?
OHO. SO YOU CAN BE A

IT WAS A LITTLE OBVIOUS IN THE BEGINNING THOUGH...

AND IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A COMPLIMENT?

BUT THE WAY YOU PUT IT MAKES IT SOUND LIKE WE'LL BE KEEPING YOU PRISONER.

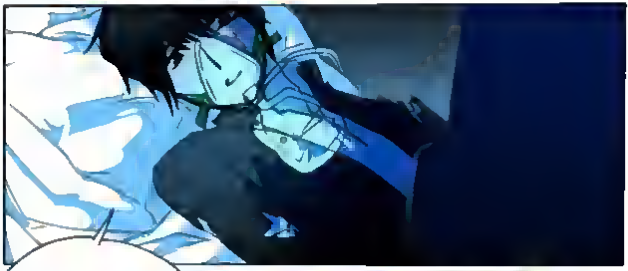
BUT WOULD THAT BE SO BAD COMPARED TO HAVING YOU RELEASED AGAIN AND "ACCIDENTALLY" WALKING INTO ANOTHER VEIL?

MY INTENTIONS ARE TO HELP YOU IN THE END, AND YOU WILL HAVE NO BETTER OPTION THAN TO AGREE.

I PLAN TO KEEP YOU SECURED AT HQ UNTIL YOU'RE FIT TO BE RELEASED WITHOUT THESE FREQUENT ENCOUNTERS BECOMING ACCIDENTAL.

YOUR UNKNOWN ABILITY TO INTERFERE WITH OUR FIELD OF WORK IS

SEEMINGLY BEYOND YOUR CONTROL AND COULD END UP DOING MORE DAMAGE THAN SIMPLY JUST ENDING YOUR LIFE.



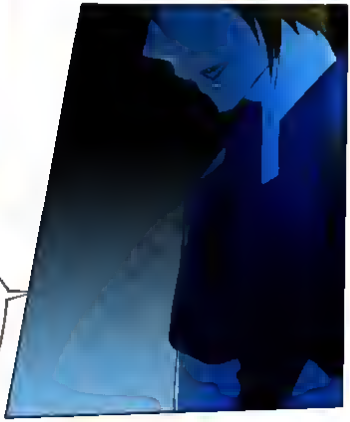
AS IN WHAT? WILL YOU BE TEACHING ME HOW TO CONTROL IT THEN?

YES, BUT THAT'S JUST PART OF IT. ACCEPTING TRAINING IS ESSENTIALLY AGREEING TO WORK WITH US.

WORK WITH YOU?

AND WHAT EXACTLY IS IT THAT YOU DO? YOU NEVER REALLY WENT INTO THAT MAJOR DETAIL IN THE FIRST

PLACE.



AS A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS STRANGER TO US, IT WASN'T ENTIRELY YOUR BUSINESS TO KNOW BEFORE. I'M SURE YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND WHERE I'M COMING FROM.

THERE'S MORE TO THIS WORLD THAN WHAT YOU SEE SUPERFICIALLY.

AS YOU'VE EXPERIENCED PERSONALLY, WE LIVE SIDE BY SIDE THE MONSTERS CREATED FROM WITHIN US.

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE: THE ONES WHO CAN OVERCOME THEIR FEARS, AND THE ONES WHO CAN'T.

FOR THE LATTER, THEIR OVERWHELMING FEARS BECOME THEIR DEMONS IN A LITERAL SENSE.

IN THE BEGINNING, THESE DEMONS STALK YOU. IT STARTS OUT AS THAT LITTLE VOICE IN YOUR HEAD REMINDING YOU OF WHAT YOU TRY TO RUN FROM.

IF THEY'RE NOT ADDRESSED PROPERLY THEY CAN GROW TO INTERFERE WITH YOUR LIFE AND NURTURE INHIBITION. THEY'LL LEAD YOU ASTRAY AND EVENTUALLY TRY TO ISOLATE YOU FROM

ANY RELATIONSHIPS OR CONNECTIONS WITH PEOPLE WHO POTENTIALLY CAN HELP YOU.

THEY CAN AFFECT THE WAY YOU THINK, THE DECISIONS YOU MAKE, AND EVEN YOUR LIFESTYLE. EVENTUALLY, THESE DEMONS WILL END UP CONTROLLING YOU

AND IT DOESN'T ALWAYS PERTAIN TO FEARS RELATING TO PHYSICAL HARM OR DEATH. IT BRANCHES OUT SITUATIONALLY AND CAN VARY FROM PERSON TO PERSON

SELF-ESTEEM
I will never be up to the standard
why do I have this issue
don t need to fit in... I just want
don t want to made fun of
FAILURE
why
let myself down, let them down
m not perfect
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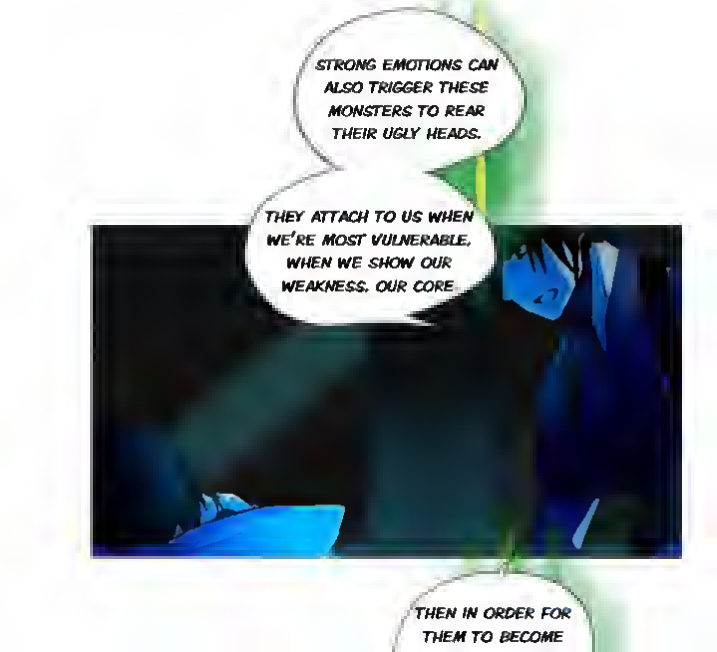

STRONG EMOTIONS CAN ALSO TRIGGER THESE MONSTERS TO REAR THEIR UGLY HEADS.
THEY ATTACH TO US WHEN WE'RE MOST VULNERABLE, WHEN WE SHOW OUR WEAKNESS. OUR CORE
THEN IN ORDER FOR THEM TO BECOME

TANGIBLE AND ACT ON THEIR HATE. THEY LEECH OFF US.
THEY FEED OFF OUR ENERGY AND GROW STRONGER AS WE CONTINUE TO SUBMIT TO OUR WEAK

AFTER THEY'VE HOLLOWED US OUT, THEY'LL PROCEED TO TAKE WHAT'S LEFT AND POSSESS OUR BODIES.

THOSE DEMONS TAKE ON PHYSICAL FORM AND GO OUT ON A EVIL SPREE.

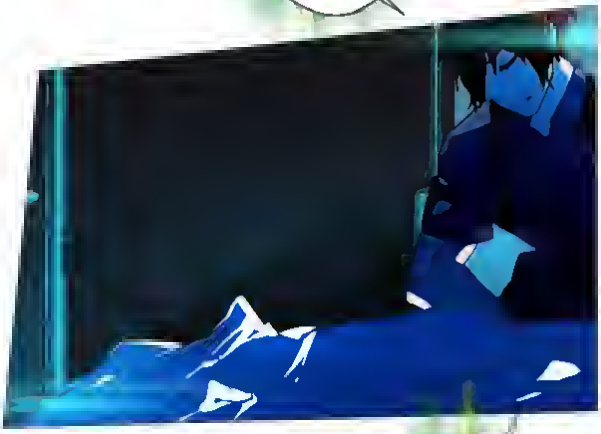
THEY MAKE CRIMINALS OUT OF US TO SATIATE THEIR THIRST FOR HAVOC. WE ARE NO LONGER OURSELVES.

IN OTHER CASES, THEY CAN CHOOSE TO KEEP THEIR ORIGINAL FORM AND INSTEAD JUST DEVOUR THEIR HOSTIA TO MAKE THEM TANGIBLE.

THE MORE WE FEAR, THE STRONGER THEY GET.

THEY ARE THE TIMOREM. THE TRUE

REPRESENTATION OF OUR FEARS.

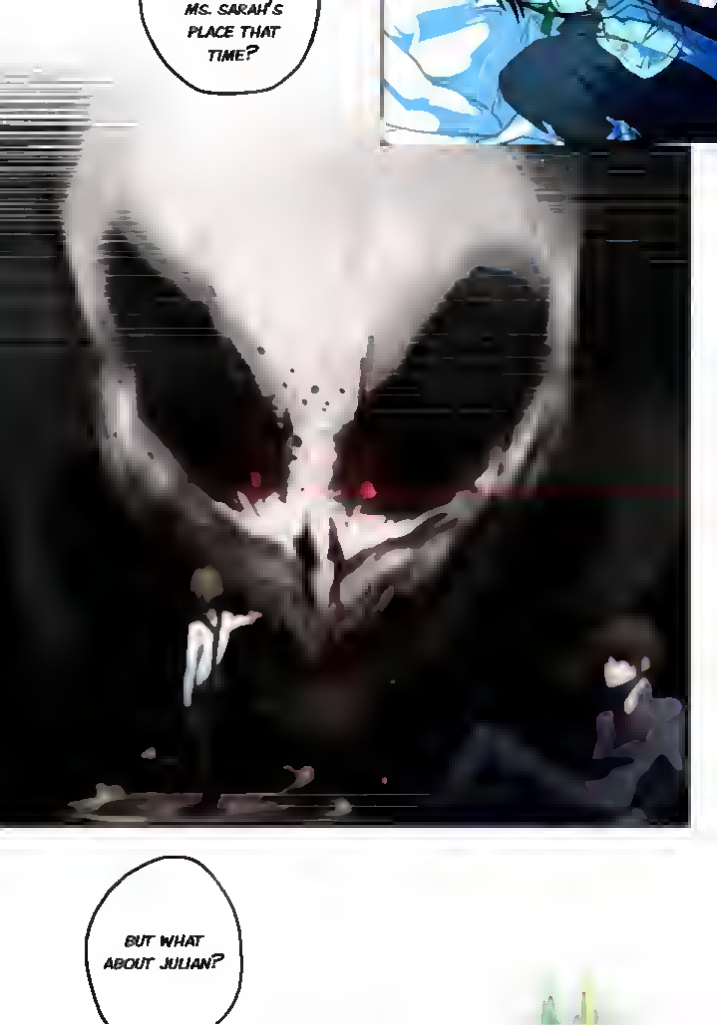


I MEAN, IF YOU CAN'T CONTAIN YOUR FEAR, IT WILL CONTAIN YOU.

THAT'S WHY WE EXIST.

WE COMBAT TIMOREM AND PUT THEM IN THEIR PLACE. WE'RE HIRED TO FACE YOUR FEARS FOR YOU.

THEN... IS THAT WHY YOU WERE THERE IN


MS. SARAH'S PLACE THAT TIME?
BUT WHAT ABOUT JULIAN?

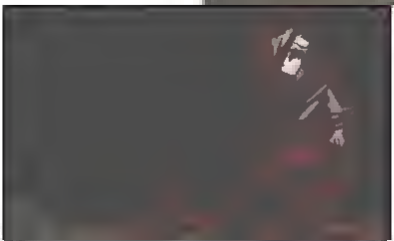
HE WAS AN URGENT CASE WE WERE REASSIGNED TO WHILE SURVEILLING YOU.

HIS TIMOREM HAD GROWN POWERFUL SO QUICKLY THAT IT MANAGED TO SET UP A VEIL FOR ITSELF TO CONSUME JULIAN.

JULIAN'S MENTAL STATE MUST HAVE BEEN IN SHAMBLES FROM VENTURING OUT AT NIGHT SEARCHING FOR HIS STEP BROTHER.

BUT SEEING HOW YOU BOTH MADE IT OUT ALIVE MAKES HIS CASE SPECIAL.

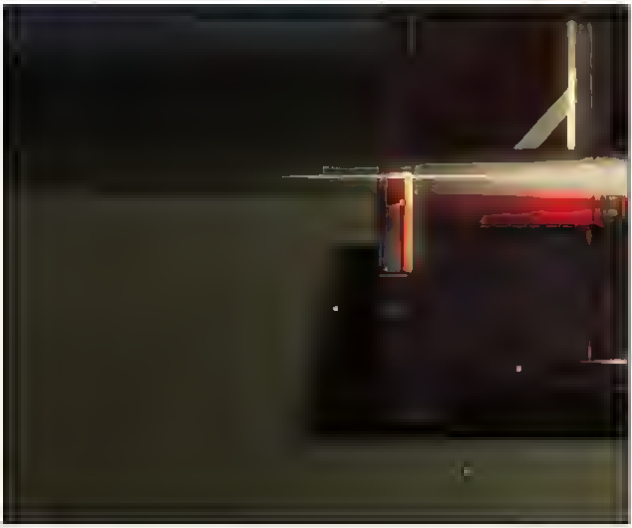
WHAT MOST LIKELY HAPPENED IS THAT HE BUILT UP THE FORTITUDE TO DEFEAT HIS OWN TIMOREM. WHICH IS REALLY IMPRESSIVE CONSIDERING HIS AGE.



MAYBE HE'S PERHAPS RUBBING OFF OF SOMEONE JUST AS SPONTANEOUS?
—

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I WENT IN THERE ON MY OWN THOUGH... I TOLD YOU, I WAS PUSHE
BLIP
BLIP
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE HERE.
BLIP
BLIP
—
YOU'LL BE TAKEN STRAIGHT TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM TO GET PROPERLY PATCHED UP.

YOU SEEM A LOT MORE ENERGETIC NOW THAN WHEN I FIRST FOUND YOU, BUT TRY NOT TO EXERT YOURSELF.



ONCE WE EXIT THE VEHICLE YOU'RE GOING TO END UP FEELING THE PAIN

AGAIN.

OH, AND I ALREADY FIXED UP THAT DISLOCATED SHOULDER YOU HAD EARLIER JUST TO LET YOU KNOW YOU WERE ASLEEP AT THE TIME, BUT I MANAGED TO GET IT INTO THE SOCKET PROPERLY.

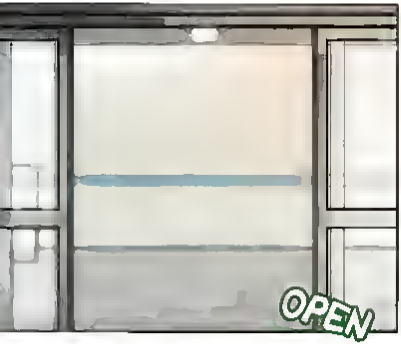
WE'LL WORK FAST TO STOP THE PAIN AGAIN, BUT IF IT HELPS YOU CAN JUST TELL YOURSELF THAT YOU'RE A BADASS WITH THESE WOUNDS.

IT'S WHAT I DO TO HELP ME GET THROUGH IT

SO BRIGHT..

THIS IS LEON MORI TAKE HIM DIRECTLY TO IRIS. SHE SHOULD BE EXPECTING HIM
UNDERSTOOD.
PAIN
I'VE GOT BUSINESS ELSEWHERE FOR NOW BUT I'LL BE BACK BY THE TIME IRIS IS DONE WITH YOU.

JUST BEAR THROUGH IT FOR NOW AND REMEMBER, YOU'RE A BADASS NOW!
GOOD LUCK!


OPEN

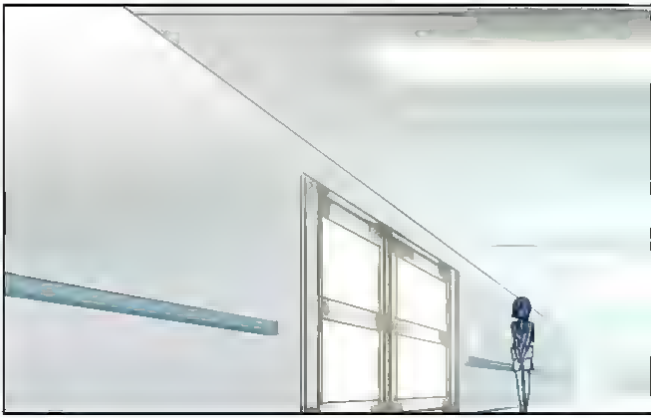
LEON. IS IT?

CAN YOU HEAR ME ALRIGHT? CAN YOU STAY AWAKE?

WE'RE ALMOST THERE SO JUST HANG ON OK? YOU'LL BE OK.

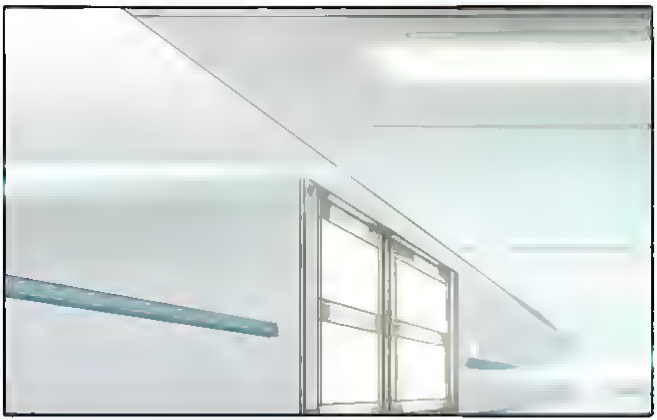
...H-HURTS

I'M A BADASS. I'M A BADASS. I'M A BADASS.



SO THIS IS THE KID THAT HARVEY BROUGHT IN?

BRING HIM IN.
WE'RE ALL READY.


...HE'S SURE GOT A LOT TO GO THROUGH FROM HERE...